

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, OVIP, AR

SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARGENTINE BANKING AND INDUSTRIAL LEADERS

1. I HAVE RECEIVED A VISIT FROM A GROUP OF ARGENTINE BUSINESS LEADERS HEADED BY DR. CARLOS HELBLING, PRESIDENT OF THE BANCO NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO (NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANK), WHO PLAN TO VISIT THE U.S. FROM JUNE 6 THROUGH JUNE 20 FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ARGENTINE BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS WITH INFLUENTIAL U.S. BUSINESSMEN THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. THE SAME GROUP MADE A SUCCESSFUL EUROPEAN TRIPLAST FALL ON A SIMILAR MISSION. ALTHOUGH TWO MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, DR. HELBLING AND MR. DUMAS, ARE PRESENTLY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THEY BOTH COME FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND THE TRIP IS VIEWED BY THEM AS PURELY PRIVATE IN CHARACTER. THEY GO HOWEVER, WITH THE BLESSINGS OF MINISTER OF ECONOMY MARTINEZ DE HOZ.

2. THE CITIES TO BE VISITED INCLUDE HOUSTON, SAN FRANCISCO, DETROIT, CHICAGO, NEW YORK, AND WASHINGTON WITH PERHAPS SEVERAL OTHERS INCLUDED IF TIME PERMITS.
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AT EACH CITY, EITHER UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE LOCAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, U.S. CORPORATIONS OR OTHER INDICATED GROUPS, THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVES PLAN A SERIES OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS DURING WHICH INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS WILL MAKE PRESENTATIONS IN THEIR FIELDS OF EXPERTISE AND ANSWER QUESTIONS. TOPICS WILL INCLUDE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, INDUS-

TRIAL PROJECTS BEING PLANNED, BILATERAL TRADE RELATIONS, AND THE GENERAL INSTITUTIONAL SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. THE GROUP WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS' QUESTIONS IF THESE SHOULD ARISE, BUT ITS EMPHASIS IS PRIMARILY AN ECONOMIC ONE DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE FLOW OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

3. THOSE PLANNING TO MAKE THE JOURNEY ARE: DR. CARLOS C. HELBLING, PRESIDENT, BANCO NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO, AND HEAD OF MISSION TO THE US; ING. FEDERICO DUMAS, S.S. EL SUBSECRETARIO DE INVERSIONES EXTERNAS; DR. JAIME PERRIAUX, LAWYER AND FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE UNDER PRESIDENTS LEVINGSTON AND LANUSSE; DR. HERNAN AYERZA, PRESIDENT, BANCO DE GALICIA; SR. EDUARDO OXENFORD, PRESIDENT, ALPARGATAS; ING. CARLOS E. DIETL, PRESIDENT, PASA PETROQUIMICA; ING. JEAN PIERRE THIBAUD, ACINDAR STEEL COMPLEX.

4. IT CAN THINK OF NO MORE REPUTABLE OR REPRESENTATIVE ARGENTINE GROUP OF THIS KIND THAT COULD BE ASSEMBLED FOR THE PURPOSE. ALL ARE TOP DRAWER, SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFLUENTIAL HERE FOR SOME TIME. THEIR VISIT TO WASHINGTON, IN MY VIEW, OFFERS US A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN U.S. POLICY TO LEADING PRIVATE ARGENTINES. I ALSO THINK THAT OUR TOP OFFICIALS WILL FIND TIME SPENT WITH THEM WORTHWHILE. IF RECOMMEND THAT APPOINTMENTS BE MADE

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FOR THEM AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL, WITH THE SECRETARY AS WELL AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AT STATE, WITH SECRETARY BLUMENTHAL AT TREASURY, WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK, AND WITH THE BANK'S VICE-PRESIDENT FOR LATIN AMERICA.

I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME INDICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE OF THE AVAILABILITY FOR THE ABOVE OFFICIALS AND ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER APPOINTMENTS, SO THAT I CAN INFORM HELBLING. THE DATES FOR THE WASHINGTON VISIT WILL BE JUNE 15-17.

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